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## BOOK REVIEWS

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*How to Study Shakespeare.* By WILLIAM H. FLEMING. With an Introduction by WILLIAM J. ROLFE, LITT.D. New York: Doubleday & McClure Co., 1898.

THE place which this volume is designed to fill is doubtless well stated by Dr. Rolfe in his brief introduction, wherein it is said that "the present volume will be found helpful and suggestive" to readers not already supplied with annotated editions of the plays. Inasmuch as the text of the plays discussed is not given, readers supplied with the text may here find in small compass such aids to the understanding of the plays of Shakspeare as are usually supplied in annotated editions. The plays discussed are the following: Othello, Twelfth Night, Julius Cæsar, The Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, Midsummer Night's Dream, King Richard the Third, The Tempest. In each case there is given a discussion respecting the source of the plot, the definition of difficult words, and an explanation of difficult phrases, questions on the characters, etc., with a list of collateral secondary reading, all of which seems to be, as Dr. Rolfe has said, helpful and suggestive.

The readers who will use this volume will probably not be offended by the author's consistency in spelling the name of the author of these plays uniformly as Shakespeare, but it gives an air of scholarship to quote titles of books exactly. For example, Barrett Wendell's book is entitled by himself *William Shakspeare*, not *William Shakespeare*. This, however, is doubtless a matter of taste, as is also the use of the word "enthuses."

The table of acts and scenes in which each character appears, and the grouping of the minor characters so that one actor may play several parts, will be useful for reading circles.

The little volume is of convenient size and neatly bound, but pages 232 and 233 are unnecessarily disfigured by some type excessively black-faced.

RICHARD JONES

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY